

Message Text

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TAGS; PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FRANCE

A. POMPIDOU'S EUROPEAN PROPOSAL ...

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON THE DIS-
SATISFACTION OF THE EC STATES WITH US CON-
SULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, PRESIDENT
POMPIDOU HAS ANNOUNCED A FRENCH INITIATIVE ON
EUROPEAN UNION. HIS PROPOSAL CONSISTS OF
REGULAR SUMMIT MEETINGS OF EC HEADS OF STATE,
AN ARRANGEMENT FOR CONVENING THE NINE TO DEFINE
AND ADOPT COMMON CRISIS PROCEDURES, COORDINATION
TO ASSURE STABILITY OF THE NINE-S CURRENCIES,
AND A MEETING OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS TO ESTABLISH
A PLAN TO CONTAIN INFLATION. EMBASSY PARIS COM-
MENTS THAT THE PROPOSAL BREAKS NO NEW SUBSTANTIVE
GROUND, BUT IT DOES REGAIN MOMENTUM FOR THE
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FRENCH VISION OF A STRONG, PROSPEROUS, AND
INDEPENDENT EC IN WHICH FRENCH PLAYS THE LEADING
ROLE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES POMPIDOU'S MOVE WILL
COMPOUND EXISTING PROBLEMS IN TRANSATLANTIC

RELATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 28416, 11/2.

B. ...AND FRENCH VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

A QUAI OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY PARIS THE EC NINE WILL DEFINITELY HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DURING THE NOVEMBER 5-6 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. HE SAID FRANCE WILL INSIST THAT ANY EC STATEMENT CONTAIN AN EXPRESSION OF WESTERN EUROPE'S INDEPENDENT POSITION ON IMPORTANT MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS. FRANCE BELIEVES THE EC CAN ALSO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO UNLOCK THE CURRENT STALEMATE, AND THAT EGYPT'S WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE BEFORE ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES REPRESENTS AN UNEXPECTEDLY CONCILIATORY GESTURE BY CAIRO. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 28354, 11/2.

2. EGYPTIANS SOURING ON FAHMI'S US VISIT

USINT CAIRO REPORTS THAT EGYPT'S HIGHLY FAVORABLE INITIAL REACTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI'S US VISIT IS QUICKLY SOURING AS A RESULT OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MEIR'S FOLLOW-UP TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND HER SUBSEQUENT UNCOMPROMISING STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS. THE EGYPTIANS VIEW THE MEIR VISIT AS A SPOILING OPERATION THAT SUCCEEDED, AND IN SOME CAIRO CIRCLES FAHMI'S TRIP IS NOW BEING COMPARED WITH THAT OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ISMAIL IN FEBRUARY, WIDELY REGARDED AS A FAILURE. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 3322, 11/2.

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3. SYRIA HOLDING FIRM UNDER ASAD'S LEADERSHIP

AFTER TALKS WITH RELIABLE OBSERVERS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM DAMASCUS, EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC GOVERNMENT (SARG) IS HOLDING FIRM UNDER PRESIDENT ASAD'S LEADERSHIP AND IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS ON THE BASIS OF UNSC RESOLUTION 338. DESPITE HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE, THERE ARE SIGNS OF RELATIVE ECONOMIC STABILITY. RECONSTRUCTION HAS ALREADY BEGUN AND CIVILIAN MORALE REMAINS HIGH. POPULAR UNHAPPINESS OVER THE CEASE-FIRE, HOWEVER, WILL FORCE ASAD TO OBTAIN VISIBLE RESULTS BEFORE

TOO LONG. IF THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS BOGS DOWN, ASAD WOULD HAVE TO RESUME HOSTILITIES OR FACE THE PROSPECT OF HIS OWN DEMISE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 12674, 11/2.

4. LIBERIA JOINS THE AFRICAN BANDWAGON

LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 2 THAT LIBERIA HAD SEVERED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. PRESIDENT TOLBERT INFORMED AMBASSADOR MANFULL THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE RELUCTANTLY AND REFLECTED A DESIRE TO KEEP IN STEP WITH HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES, RATHER THAN ANY LIBERIAN ANIMOSITY TOWARD ISRAEL. (SECRET) MONROVIA 6016 AND 6032, 11/2.

5. ALGERIA CALLS FOR OAU MEETING ON ISRAELI AGGRESSION

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAS PROPOSED AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) FOREIGN MINISTERS TO CONSIDER ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST EGYPT. USINT ALGIERS COMMENTS THAT ALGERIA HAS ASSUMED CREDIT FOR INCLUDING AFRICAN NATIONS TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND NOW WISHES
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TO GO A STEP FURTHER BY CONVENING THE OAU MEETING. HOWEVER, THE ALGERIANS MAY HAVE MISJUDGED AFRICAN RESENTMENT OF ARAB ARM-TWISTING, AND THE AFRICANS WILL PROBABLY RESIST HOLDING ANOTHER CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS SO SOON AFTER THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ALGIERS 2322, 11/2.

6. SUCCESSFUL INSURRECTION SEEN UNLIKELY IN NEPAL

EMBASSY KATHMANDU HAS CONCLUDED THAT CONDITIONS IN NEPAL ARE NOT SUCH AS TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL INSURRECTION LIKELY, NOTWITHSTANDING THE PLOTTING OF NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY (NCP) EXILES. THE EXTENT OF INDIAN SUPPORT OF NCP MACHINATIONS CREATES AN ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT, BUT THE INDIANS IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE DEEPEENED THEIR COMMITMENTS TO THE ROYAL REGIME. THE EMBASSY URGES CONTINUANCE OF A LOW US PROFILE WITH FIRM SUPPORT FOR NEPAL'S POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (SECRET) KATHMANDU 4538, 11/2 (EXDIS).
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